

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 17-28 are allowable if they are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant has rewritten allowable claims 21-28 as new claims 29-36, respectively. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 29-36 are also allowable.

The Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, because “the element” lacks an antecedent basis. Applicant has amended the phrase to “an element”.

The Examiner rejected claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshida (US Patent No. 6211602). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Examiner asserted that Yoshida discloses a piezoelectric element 15 that exerts shock pulses to carry out a stepwise movement. However, the piezoelectric element 15 in Yoshida is fixed to the base 10 and is not supported by the element to be displaced (element 16). This results in a complicated arrangement that is very expensive to manufacture. By contrast, the present invention as claimed in claim 15 has a piezoelectric actuator arrangement that is supported by the element to be displaced. As a result, the piezoelectric arrangement of the present invention moves with the element to be displaced. This feature makes the adjusting device simple and very inexpensive to manufacture.

This feature is recited in claim 15 as “a piezoelectric actuator arrangement which is **supported by the an element to be displaced** for moving . . .”. To make this feature more clear, Applicant has added “said piezoelectric actuator arrangement moving with the element to be displaced”. Yoshida neither teaches nor suggests a piezoelectric element that is supported by the displaceable element and is moved with the displaceable element.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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